



**Major water main work will close Alfriston High Street to through traffic for around five months**

A £550,000 scheme to replace an unreliable water main through the middle of Alfriston will lead to the closure of the village High Street and North Street to through traffic from January until June next year.

South East Water will undertake the work following a series of high-profile bursts on the existing drinking water supply pipeline which have left historic properties flooded and local people with either no water or low pressure.

“Given Alfriston is a major tourist destination we are working closely with East Sussex County Council and Alfriston Parish Council, shopkeepers, business owners and local people to try to minimise the impact of the road closure by looking to undertake the majority of this project at the quietest time of year at the start of 2020,” said South East Water Project Manager Jeremy Dufour.

“Although a 600 metre section of the High Street and North Street will be affected and closed to through traffic, we will operate a rolling road closure meaning the work will be undertaken in one short section before we reinstate the area and then move to the next section. This means local people will be still be able to gain access to the shops, pubs, restaurants and all other businesses throughout the work which we plan to complete within five months.”

South East Water will stage a major publicity drive to alert motorists and lorry drivers from outside the local area to the road closure via electronic road signs, newspaper and radio advertisements, leaflets and posters. In particular the company will target foreign lorry drivers on the Newhaven ferries who use Alfriston as a through route to and from the A27.

The company has also arranged a public drop-in session from 7 – 9pm on Tuesday 29 October at Alfriston War Memorial Hall where local people will have the chance to meet the South East Water project team and contractors.

In addition, it has appointed a full-time customer liaison manager for the duration of the work who will work with the business community and residents to alleviate any issues arising while the new pipeline is laid.

Jeremy Dufour said: “We know roadworks of this kind cause a lot of inconvenience in the short term but the long term benefit of this work will be felt by the community for many decades to come.

“We shall endeavour to minimise the impact by getting this project completed as quickly and efficiently as possible.”